

Our Graduates: New Beginnings, New Adventures

In the next few weeks, more than 12,000 students graduate from Iowa's public universities. This fresh crop of intellect and enthusiasm yields doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, veterinarians, architects, scientists and entrepreneurs.

These graduates will soon become our neighbors, teach our children, open businesses on Main Street, deliver our first grandchild and become our next generation of community leaders.

With history as their guide, these graduates of Iowa's public universities will do incredible things during their lifetime like Thomas Whitney, an early 1960's Iowa State University graduate, who, while at Hewlett-Packard, led the team that invented the world's first handheld electronic calculator or Bruce Roth, a 1981 Iowa State University doctoral graduate, who developed Lipitor, a life-saving cholesterol drug,

Society will benefit from the vision of our graduates like 1946 ISU veterinary medicine graduate, Frederick Douglass Patterson who founded the United Negro College Fund to improve education opportunities for African Americans or 1880 ISU graduate Carrie Chapman Catt who devoted her life to expanding woman's rights worldwide.

Our graduates will leave their footprint on our everyday lives like University of Iowa graduates journalist Tom Brokaw, singer Al Jarreau, saxophonist David Sanborn, Pulitzer Prize winning author John Irving, playwright Tennessee Williams, and University of Northern Iowa's Robert Waller.

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And finally, graduates of Iowa's public universities will grow our economy like when Iowa State University economics professor Elizabeth Hoyt devised the Consumer Price Index in 1915 or when 1946 ISU graduate T.A. Wilson led Boeing's development of the 747 aircraft.

Iowans eager to see a return on their investment in Iowa's public universities need look no further than the faces of the more than 15,000 students who graduate from our universities next month. Their possibilities are endless.

Iowa's public universities are proud to have provided the foundation for their bright future - a world class education. Congratulations, Class of 2014!